

POTPOURRI

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
Legal Affairs Division

Technical Review of Working Draft of Air Permits (0605Pot3)

The Office of Environmental Services, Air Permits Division (APD), has established a procedure for technical review of the working draft of a proposed permit by facility representatives and other Divisions within DEQ. The technical review will take place after the working draft of the proposed permit has been developed and initially reviewed (but not approved) by the supervisor. The procedure will standardize the timing and duration of the review and also provide clear information in the public record regarding the review and the APD's responses to the review. As part of the procedure, a Worksheet for Technical Review of the Working Draft of the Proposed Permit has been developed. The completed form will become part of the public record for each proposed permit and will be available for public review during the public comment period. Additionally, the public notice for the proposed permit will contain a statement indicating whether or not the proposed permit was changed as a result of the technical review.

The procedure provides the facility an opportunity to clarify items early in the process. Internal DEQ stakeholders, specifically inspectors, are also provided an opportunity to address issues at the facility. During the subsequent review process, DEQ management will be provided an opportunity to view facility remarks, thereby allowing the permitting authority to be made aware of and consider key issues. Through this procedure the public and EPA are made specifically aware that the facility reviewed the working draft of the proposed permit very early in the process and may review the facility's concerns as well as the APD's response.

The procedure shall become effective July 1, 2006. Proposed permits in development on the effective date of the procedure and those developed after the effective date will be processed using this review procedure.

For further information, contact Cheryl Sonnier Nolan, Office of Environmental Services, Air Permits Division, at 225-219-3010 or cheryl.nolan@la.gov.

Herman Robinson, CPM
Executive Counsel